

NB:ALB  
F.#2010R02118

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

FILED  
IN CLERKS OFFICE  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y.  
★ MAR 19 2015 ★

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LONG ISLAND OFFICE  
SUPERSEDING  
INDICTMENT

- against -

GILBERT SOLNIN,  
also known as "Gil Solnin" and  
"Gil Solomon,"

Cr. No. 12 CR 040(S-3)(ADS)  
(T. 18, U.S.C., §§ 981(a)(1)(C),  
1001(a)(2), 1341, 1343 and 3551 et  
seq.; T. 21, U.S.C., § 853(p); T. 28,  
U.S.C., § 2461(c))

Defendant.

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THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

INTRODUCTION

At all times relevant to this Superseding Indictment, unless otherwise indicated:

1. The defendant GILBERT SOLNIN, also known as "Gil Solnin" and "Gil Solomon," who resided in Plainview, New York, and worked from his residence, held himself out to be an agent authorized to represent various companies that sought advertising, marketing and other services for their businesses.

2. Beverage Ventures Group, LLC ("BVG") was a limited liability corporation formed under the laws of the State of New York and located at 16 Lillian Lane, Plainview, New York. The defendant GILBERT SOLNIN, also known as "Gil Solnin" and "Gil Solomon," was the sole signatory on a bank account maintained for BVG at JPMorgan Chase Bank.

3. John Doe Agency #1 through John Doe Agency #15, whose identities are known to the Grand Jury, were advertising and marketing agencies located throughout the United States that provided marketing and advertising services to businesses (collectively the “John Doe Agencies”).

4. John Doe Distillery #1 through John Doe Distillery #6, whose identities are known to the Grand Jury, were distilleries located throughout the United States that produced distilled spirits for sale through retail markets (collectively the “John Doe Distilleries”).

#### THE FRAUDULENT SCHEMES

5. On or about and between December 1, 2007 and January 27, 2012, the defendant GILBERT SOLNIN, also known as “Gil Solnin” and “Gil Solomon,” devised and executed schemes and artifices to defraud the John Doe Agencies and John Doe Distilleries by soliciting and obtaining advance fees from them. It was part of the schemes that defendant SOLNIN made materially false and fraudulent representations and promises to induce the John Doe Agencies and John Doe Distilleries to remit payments to him. It was also part of the schemes that the defendant SOLNIN used the email accounts gilsolnin@hotmail.com and gilsolomon@live.com (the “email accounts”) to communicate with the John Doe Agencies and John Doe Distilleries.

#### THE ADVERTISING AGENCY SCHEME

6. On or about and between December 1, 2007 and February 28, 2011, both dates being approximate and inclusive, the defendant GILBERT SOLNIN, also known as “Gil Solnin” and “Gil Solomon,” made materially false and fraudulent representations and promises to the John Doe Agencies about his relationship and status with various beverage producing

companies. For example, SOLNIN falsely stated in email communications with representatives of the John Doe Agencies that: (a) he had current agreements and contracts with beverage companies that authorized SOLNIN to represent them; (b) he was searching for advertising and marketing agencies to provide services to beverage companies that he represented; and (c) the advertising agencies that he selected would receive exclusive rights to provide advertising and marketing services to beverage companies.

7. It was a further part of the scheme that the defendant GILBERT SOLNIN, also known as “Gil Solnin” and “Gil Solomon,” directed representatives of the John Doe Agencies to send money representing advance fees in amounts ranging from \$3,500 to \$8,000 to SOLNIN via United States mail and private commercial carriers as payment for the right to become exclusive advertising and marketing service providers for SOLNIN’s purported beverage company clients.

8. In truth and in fact, as the defendant GILBERT SOLNIN, also known as “Gil Solnin” and “Gil Solomon,” then and there well knew and believed, he did not have current agreements and contracts to represent any beverage companies, and the John Doe Agencies would not receive exclusive rights to provide services for any beverage companies. In reality, after SOLNIN received advance fee money from the John Doe Agencies, SOLNIN discontinued substantive communications with them, and the John Doe Agencies did not receive any rights to provide services to any of SOLNIN’s purported beverage companies.

#### THE DISTILLERY SCHEME

9. On or about and between February 1, 2011 and January 27, 2012, both dates being approximate and inclusive, the defendant GILBERT SOLNIN, also known as “Gil Solnin”

and “Gil Solomon,” made materially false and fraudulent representations and promises to the John Doe Distilleries about his ability to secure placement of the John Doe Distilleries’ products through distributors located in New York.

10. It was a further part of the scheme that the defendant GILBERT SOLNIN, also known as “Gil Solnin” and “Gil Solomon,” directed representatives of the John Doe Distilleries to send money representing advance commission fees in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 to BVG via United States mail, private commercial carriers and electronic wire transfers as advances against future commissions to be earned from product placement. It was also a part of the scheme that SOLNIN provided to the John Doe Distilleries agreements in which he promised to refund the advance commission fees if the distilleries’ products were not placed with a distributor within a certain time period.

11. In truth and in fact, as the defendant GILBERT SOLNIN, also known as “Gil Solnin” and “Gil Solomon,” then and there well knew and believed, he did not intend to place the John Doe Distilleries’ products with distributors and did not intend to return their advance commission fees to them. Rather, after SOLNIN received the advance commission fees from the John Doe Distilleries, he discontinued substantive communications with the John Doe Distilleries, did not place any of their products with distributors and did not refund the advance commission fees to them as promised.

#### THE HOUSING RECOVERY PROGRAM SCHEME

12. In or about November 2012, following Hurricane Sandy, the New York State Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery formed the New York Rising Housing Recovery Program (“New York Rising”) which assisted homeowners whose residences were damaged

during the storm with funding provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's ("HUD") Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery ("CDBG-DR") program. Homeowners seeking such funding were required to provide income information on a certified Income Verification Form ZD05 ("Form ZD05"). Form ZD05 contained an acknowledgement that "Title 18 United States Code Section 1001: [] makes it a violation of federal law for a person to knowingly and willfully (a) falsify, conceal, or cover up a material fact; (b) make any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or (c) make or use any false writing or document knowing it contains a materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry, to any branch of the United States Government . . . ."

13. On or about April 10, 2014, within the Eastern District of New York, the defendant GILBERT SOLNIN, also known as "Gil Solnin" and "Gil Solomon," submitted Form ZD05 to New York Rising as part of an application for HUD CDBG-DR Program funding to pay for damage allegedly caused by Hurricane Sandy. The Form ZD05 SOLNIN submitted included a statement detailing SOLNIN's sources of income. On the Form ZD05, SOLNIN falsely stated that his only income was from Social Security. In truth and in fact, SOLNIN then and there well knew and believed that he also received Annuity income from a Vivendi Universal Retirement Account Plan at Transamerica Financial Life, including approximately \$10,862.50 in 2012, \$13,035 in 2013 and \$3,258.75 in 2014.

COUNTS ONE THROUGH NINE  
(Mail Fraud)

14. The allegations contained in paragraphs one through eleven are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth in this paragraph.

15. On or about the dates set forth below, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant GILBERT SOLNIN, also known as “Gil Solnin,” also known as Gil Solomon,” did knowingly and intentionally devise a scheme and artifice to defraud the John Doe Agencies and John Doe Distilleries identified below, and to obtain money and property from them, by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, and for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, did place and cause to be placed in a post office and authorized depository for mail matter, one or more matters and things to be sent and delivered by the United States Postal Service and any private and commercial interstate carrier according to the direction thereon, as set forth below:

COUNT	APPROXIMATE DATE OF MAILING	DESCRIPTION OF MAILING
ONE	May 19, 2008	Check in the amount of \$8,000 payable to “Gil Solnin” sent from John Doe Agency #1 to Plainview, NY
TWO	September 25, 2008	Check in the amount of \$6,917.50 payable to “Gil Solnin” sent from John Doe Agency #2 to Plainview, NY
THREE	November 24, 2008	Check in the amount of \$8,000 payable to “Gil Solnin” sent from John Doe Agency #3 to Plainview, NY
FOUR	December 12, 2008	Check in the amount of \$8,000 payable to “Gil Solnin” sent from John Doe Agency #4 to Plainview, NY
FIVE	March 5, 2009	Check in the amount of \$8,000 payable to “Gil Solnin” sent from John Doe Agency #5 to Plainview, NY
SIX	May 7, 2009	Check in the amount of \$5,000 payable to “Gil Solnin” sent from John Doe Agency #6 to Plainview, NY
SEVEN	June 3, 2009	Check in the amount of \$5,000 payable to “Gil Solnin” sent from John Doe Agency #7 to Plainview, NY
EIGHT	March 12, 2010	Check in the amount of \$5,000 payable to “Gil Solnin” sent from John Doe Agency #8 to Plainview, NY

NINE	June 23, 2011	Check in the amount of \$4,000 payable to BVG sent from John Doe Distillery #1 to Plainview, NY
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(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 3551 et seq.)

COUNTS TEN THROUGH TWENTY-ONE

(Wire Fraud)

16. The allegations contained in paragraphs one through eleven are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth in this paragraph.

17. On or about the dates set forth below, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant GILBERT SOLNIN, also known as “Gil Solnin” and “Gil Solomon,” did knowingly and intentionally devise a scheme and artifice to defraud the John Doe Agencies and John Doe Distilleries identified below, and to obtain money and property from them by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, and for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, transmitted and caused to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate commerce, writings, signs, signals and sounds, to wit: email messages sent from the email accounts and bank wire transfers as set forth below:

COUNT	APPROXIMATE DATE OF EMAIL OR WIRE TRANSFER	DESCRIPTION OF WIRE COMMUNICATION
TEN	June 26, 2009	Email to John Doe Agency #9, Los Angeles, CA
ELEVEN	September 15, 2009	Email to John Doe Agency #10, Cincinnati, OH
TWELVE	September 28, 2009	Email to John Doe Agency #11, Chicago, IL
THIRTEEN	January 22, 2010	Email to John Doe Agency #12, New Orleans, LA

FOURTEEN	May 24, 2010	Email to John Doe Agency #13, Minneapolis, MN
FIFTEEN	June 30, 2010	Email to John Doe Agency #14, Salt Lake City, UT
SIXTEEN	December 10, 2010	Email to John Doe Agency #15, Jackson, MS
SEVENTEEN	July 8, 2011	\$4,000 wire transfer from John Doe Distillery #2 to the BVG account at JPMorgan Chase Bank, Plainview, NY
EIGHTEEN	July 11, 2011	\$3,500 wire transfer from John Doe Distillery #3 to the BVG account at JPMorgan Chase Bank, Plainview, NY
NINETEEN	August 17, 2011	\$3,500 wire transfer from John Doe Distillery #4 to the BVG account at JPMorgan Chase Bank, Plainview, NY
TWENTY	September 30, 2011	\$3,500 wire transfer from John Doe Distillery #5 to the BVG account at JPMorgan Chase Bank, Plainview, NY
TWENTY-ONE	January 12, 2012	\$1,750 wire transfer from John Doe Distillery #6 to the BVG account at JPMorgan Chase Bank, Plainview, NY

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 3551 et seq.)

COUNT TWENTY-TWO  
(False Statement)

18. The allegations contained in paragraphs twelve and thirteen are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth in this paragraph.

19. On or about April 10, 2014, within the Eastern District of New York, the defendant GILBERT SOLNIN, also known as “Gil Solnin” and “Gil Solomon,” did knowingly and willfully make materially false, fictitious and fraudulent statements and representations in a



matter within the jurisdiction of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, to wit: the New York Rising, which administered funding provided by the HUD CDBG-DR program, in that the defendant falsely stated on Form ZD05 that his only income was from Social Security, when, in fact, as the defendant then and there well knew and believed, he had also received Annuity income.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1001(a)(2) and 3551 et seq.)

CRIMINAL FORFEITURE ALLEGATION AS TO COUNTS ONE THROUGH  
TWENTY-ONE

20. The United States hereby gives notice to the defendant charged in Counts One through Twenty-One that the government will seek forfeiture in accordance with Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), of any property constituting or derived from proceeds obtained directly or indirectly as a result of such offenses.

21. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty;


it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other

property of the defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described in this forfeiture allegation.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C); Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p); Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c))

A TRUE BILL

  
FOREPERSON

  
LORETTA E. LYNCH  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

F. #2010R02118  
FORM DBD-34  
JUN. 85

No. 12-CR-040(S-3)(ADS)

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

*EASTERN District of NEW YORK*

CRIMINAL DIVISION

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

GILBERT SOLNIN,  
also known as "Gil Solnin" and "Gil Solomon,"  
Defendant.

**SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT**

(T. 18, U.S.C., §§ 981(a)(1)(C), 1001(a)(2), 1341, 1343 and 3551 et seq.;  
T. 21, U.S.C., § 853(p); T. 28, U.S.C., § 2461(c))

*A true bill.*

*Arthur M. Bode*

*Foreperson*

Filed in open court this \_\_\_\_\_ day,  
of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 20 \_\_\_\_\_

*Clerk*

Bail, \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Allen L. Bode, Assistant U.S. Attorney (631) 715-7828*